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First Intramural Mock Trial Competition a Success

FORT WORTH, Texas – The Board of Trial Advocates hosted Texas Wesleyan University School of Law’s first-ever intramural mock trial competition Feb. 22-23.

Named after its generous sponsor, the Fort Worth Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association Mock Trial Competition included eight teams consisting of 16 advocates and 16 witnesses. The teams competed in two preliminary rounds, with four teams advancing to the semi-final round. The semifinalist advocates were 2L Kyle Brashier, 3L Renea Overstreet, 3L Jim Graham, 2L Lantis Roberts, 2L Sharon Diaz, 3L Matthew Wright, 3L Benjamim Palatiere, and 3L Kara Squier.

The teams of Brashier/Overstreet and Diaz/Wright advanced to the championship round. Brashier/Overstreet narrowly defeated Diaz/Wright in the final match by a 3-2 ballot. Judge Bonnie Sudderth, District Judge of Tarrant County’s 352nd District Court, served as the final round’s presiding judge.

In addition to the team awards, the BTA presented individual awards to recognize outstanding performances during the preliminary rounds. Brashier won the award for the competition’s Best Advocate, Wright won Best Closing Argument, and Overstreet won Best Opening Statement.

The competition was followed by a reception at local restaurant Ferré, providing an opportunity for the students to network with the judges who evaluated them during the competition.

Competition judges were complimentary of the performances they saw throughout the two-day event.

“As a Fort Worth lawyer, I was thrilled to see how the current and former Texas Wesleyan Law students, as well as members of the legal community, came together to enthusiastically participate in this tournament,” Vince Cruz Jr., Senior General Attorney for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, said. “The organization, judging, and participants made this a first class event. This is definitely the start of a terrific trial advocacy program at Texas Wesleyan.”

John Proctor, Managing Partner of Fort Worth law firm Brown, Dean, Wiseman, Proctor, Hart & Howell, LLP, said he was impressed by the skill exhibited by the students in the final round.

“Everyone departed themselves with extreme professionalism and skill,” Proctor said. “I found it hard to believe that this was the first such competition in the school’s history.”

For more information about the Board of Trial Advocates (e.g., resources, membership, etc.), visit the BTA website at www.law.txwes.edu/bta.